SPECIAL FEATURE
RUSSELL BLACK

JULY 27, 1978

THE "FLYING FOR FUN" GALLERY
IN THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED TO WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM. IT'S A NEW WING CALLED THE "FLYING FOR FUN" GALLERY.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE TRYING TO IMPROVE THE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM. IT IS THE MOST POPULAR ATTRACTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ...IT HAS 50 THOUSAND VISITORS A DAY; IT HAS HAD TWENTY MILLION VISITORS SINCE IT OPENED TWO YEARS AGO; IT IS ATTRACTING WORLD RENOWN; IT IS THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION, EXHIBITION, AND STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF FLIGHT. IT CONTAINS EVERYTHING FROM EARLY MYTHOLOGICAL EFFORTS AT FLIGHT, TO THE EQUIPMENT OF THE ASTRONAUTS WHO WALKED ON THE MOON. BUT NOW THEY'RE ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE SHOW." VOA'S RUSSELL BLACK WENT TO THE MUSEUM TO TALK TO MISS CLAUDIA OAKES, CURATOR OF THE "FLYING FOR FUN GALLERY," AND ---------- HAS THESE DETAILS.

VOICE: FIRST OF ALL WHAT PROMPTED THE MUSEUM TO SET UP A "FLYING FOR FUN GALLERY..."

TAPE: CUT ONE -- OAKES

"WELL, WE FELT THAT IN THE MUSEUM WE'VE DEVOTED A VERY GREAT DEAL OF SPACE TO SPECIAL AIR TRAVEL, WE HAVE DEVOTED SPACE TO MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WE HAVE DEVOTED SPACE TO RECORD SETTERS, BUT WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE WHERE WE COULD SHOW PEOPLE WHAT THEY COULD DO JUST TO GO OUT ON FREE SUNNY DAY AND ENJOY THEMSELVES DOING. SO THE IDEA OF THIS GALLERY WAS FORMED, AND ALSO THERE WERE SOME AREAS OF AVIATION THAT WE FELT WE HADN'T COVERED BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO FIT INTO OTHER UNITS, SUCH AS SOARING AND HANG-GLIDING."

VOICE: THE GALLERY COVERS AN AREA OF SOME TEN SQUARE METERS AND IS SOME 20 METERS HIGH. IT IS BATHED BY LIGHT FROM A WINDOW THAT IS ALMOST AS HIGH AS THE EXHIBIT. THE DISPLAY IS FILLED WITH ALTERNATING COLORS--GREEN AND ORANGE AND SILVER AND RED. SOME NINETY OBJECTS, ALL DIFFERENT IN DESIGN AND STRUCTURE AND COLOR.

WE ASKED CLAUDIA OAKES WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS WERE COVERED IN THE DISPLAY.....

TAPE: CUT TWO -- OAKES

"WE COVER EIGHT CATEGORIES: SOARING, HANG-GLIDING, SKY-DIVING HOT-AIR BALLOONING, MODEL AIRCRAFT, FRISBIES, BOOMERANGS, AND KITES. WE ALSO HAVE AN AREA WHERE WE SHOW OUR RESTORATION WORK--PHOTOGRAPHS OF AIRCRAFT RESTORATION BY OUR OWN CRAFTSMAN IN OUR OWN RESTORATION FACITITIES."

VOICE: THE LOWLIEST ITEM IN THIS ENTIRE MUSEUM IS THE KITE. THIS CAN BE CONTRASTED WITH THE AWESOME HARDWARE WE CAN SEE FROM HERE WHICH TOOK THE ASTRONAUTS TO THE MOON. IT'S A REMARKABLE CONTRAST! WE ASKED FOR THE REACTION OF THE CURATOR, CLAUDIA OAKES.....

TAPE: CUT THREE -- OAKES

"WELL, A KITE IS NOT GOING TO GET YOU TO THE MOON, BUT BACK IN THE MEDIEVAL CHINESE DAYS THEY WERE FLYING KITES AND THERE'S A MARVELOUS QUOTE WHICH WE USE IN OUR KITE CASE (I THINK IT WAS SAID BY A FRENCHMAN IN THE EIGHTEEN-NINETIES) WHICH SAYS THAT IF MAN DOES ACTUALLY GET OFF THE GROUND, THE THEORY OF IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE A BASIS IN THE CHINESE KITE ...SO KITES HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE HISTORY OF AVIATION AND WE SHOW MANY DIFFERENT TYPES HERE."

VOICE: AMONG THE MANY INTERESTING THINGS IN THE GALLERY CLAUDIA OAKES SINGLED OUT SOME SPECIAL EXAMPLES....

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- OAKES

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS BUT LET ME JUST POINT OUT TWO: WE HAVE SUSPENDED HIGH ABOVE US TWO SAIL PLANES. THESE TWO

TAPE: (CON'T) ARE SOMEWHAT FAMOUS. THE HIGHEST ONE IS A SCHWEITZER ONE THIRTY-FIVE-AYE. IT WON THE CROSS COUNTRY DERBY FOR SAIL PLANES WHICH BEGINS IN LOS ANGELES AND ENDS AT DULLES AIRPORT HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE OTHER PLANE IS A CESSNA ONE-AYE WHICH FLEW A THOUSAND KILOMETERS IN THE NINETEEN-SIXTEES AND WON BACK FOR THE UNITED STATES FROM THE RUSSIANS AND THE GERMANS THE SAIL PLANE RECORD FOR A DISTANCE FROM A FIXED POINT TO ANOTHER FIXED POINT AND ALSO THE RECORD FOR ALL SO-CALLED "FREE-FLIGHT SYSTEMS."

ANNCR: THAT WAS CLAUDIA OAKES, CURATOR OF THE "FLYING FOR FUN" GALLERY IN THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM, IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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